

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4-11, 16 and 17, amend claims 1, 3 and 19, and add new claims 21-30, as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A process for producing a fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug, wherein said process comprises:

suspending said poorly soluble drug in a liquid containing no deflocculant to obtain a suspension;

introducing said suspension into a high-pressure homogenizer to subject said suspension to a high-pressure treatment to obtain a dispersion; and

adding a deflocculant to said dispersion to deagglomerate aggregated particles contained therein,

wherein said poorly soluble drug is 1-cyclopropyl-8-methyl-7-[5-methyl-6-(methylamino)-3-pyridinyl]-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-3-quinolinecarboxylic acid.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is a synthetic polymer.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is a ~~synthetic~~ polymer selected from the group consisting of a natural polysaccharide, a natural polysaccharide derivative, a vinyl polymer derivative, and a copolymer of polyalkylene glycol.

Claims 4-11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) A fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug produced by the process according to Claim 1.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug according to Claim 12, wherein 90% by volume or more of particles in said fine dispersion is less than 1000 nm in particle diameter.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug according to Claim 12, wherein 90% by volume or more of particles in said fine dispersion is less than 500 nm in particle diameter.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) A medicinal preparation comprising a fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug produced by the process according to Claim 1, wherein said fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug is in a form of fine particles.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is a natural polysaccharide.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is acacia, ~~a natural polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of acacia, xanthan gum and pullulan.~~

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said process further comprises, after said adding:

subjecting said dispersion to a deagglomeration treatment selected from the group consisting of an ultrasonic treatment, a high-pressure homogenizer treatment and a rotary homogenizer treatment.

Claim 21 (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is xanthan gum.

Claim 22 (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is pullulan.

Claim 23 (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is a natural polysaccharide derivative.

Claim 24 (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is a natural polysaccharide derivative selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, and hydroxypropylstarch.

Claim 25 (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

Claim 26 (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is a vinyl polymer derivative.

Claim 27 (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is polyvinyl alcohol.

Claim 28 (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

Claim 29 (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is a copolymer of polyalkylene glycol.

Claim 30 (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene copolymer.